

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the above amendments and following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 6-8, 11-16 and 19-30 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, Claims 1, 6, 8, 11, 16 and 19 are amended; Claims 4-5, 9-10 and 17-18 are cancelled; and no claims are added herewith. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added by this Amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1, 8 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,703,965 to Fu and U.S. Patent No. 5,426,673 to Mitra; Claims 2-4, 12, 13, 15, 20-22 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Fu and Mitra and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,363,526 to Vlahos; Claims 9 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Fu and Mitra and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,229,578 to Acharya; Claims 5-7, 10, 11, 14, 18, 19, 23 and 25-27 were indicated as including allowable subject matter; and Claims 28-29 were allowed.

Applicant appreciates the Examiner indicating allowable subject matter. Accordingly, by the present amendment, Claim 1 is amended to include the allowable features of Claims 4 and 5; Claim 8 is amended to include the allowable features of Claims 9 and 10; and Claim 16 is amended to include the allowable features of Claims 17 and 18. Therefore, pending Claims 1-3, 6-8, 11-16 and 19-30 are in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

Consequently, for the reasons discussed in detail above, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

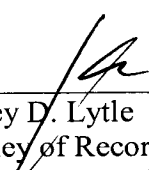
Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)



Bradley D. Lytle
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 40,073

Kevin McKinley
Registration No. 43,794

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